

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-19, and 21-33 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 5. Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 30. Claim 18 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1. Claims 4-6, 15-17, and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Entry and consideration of these amendments are earnestly requested inasmuch as they do not introduce new matter.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that the previously submitted drawings have been accepted. Applicants also wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 10, 18-19 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was mailed April 11, 2008 but has not yet been considered by the Examiner. Applicants earnestly request that the references listed on the previously submitted PTO 1449 form be considered by the Examiner and acknowledged in the next correspondence from the Office.

Claim Rejections

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

A. Response to rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 11-14, 21-23 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg et al.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 7-8, 11-14, 21-23 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent no. 06218792 of Kagitani ("Kagitani") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,047,196 of Zuckerberg et al. ("Zuckerberg"), Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

B. Response to rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and Hahn.

In response to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,028,034 of Hahn (“Hahn”), Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

C. Response to rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani, in view of Zuckerberg and Skov et al.

In response to the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0090024 of Skov et al. (“Skov”), Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

D. Response to rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg, Skov, and Hahn.

In response to the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg, Skov and Hahn, Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

E. Response to rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg, Hahn and Cancio et al.

In response to the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and Hahn, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,626,574 of Cancio et al. ("Cancio"), Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

F. Response to rejection of claims 24-25, 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg.

In response to the rejection of claims 24-25, 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg, Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

G. Response to rejection of claims 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and Hahn.

In response to the rejection of claims 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Kagitani in view of Zuckerberg and Hahn, Applicants respectively submit that the features of allowed claims 5 and 30 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 13, respectively. Since all pending claims now depend, either directly or indirectly upon claims 1 and 13, Applicants respectively submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

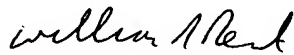
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Rejection respectfully is requested.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have questions or comments regarding this application or this Amendment, Applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss the case with the Examiner.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge U.S. PTO Deposit Account 08-2336 in the amount of any fee required for consideration of this Amendment.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed April 8, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

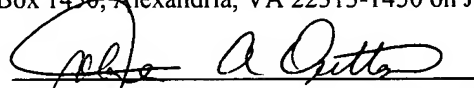


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage thereon with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 31, 2008.


July 31 2008
Date of Signature

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